

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1           1 (Original). Method for the generation of chondrons comprising  
2         the step of:

3                 cultivation of cells at unphysiologically high extra cellular  
4         concentrations of magnesium (Mg), characterized in that at least once the  
5         unphysiologically high extra cellular Mg concentration is increased during  
6         cell cultivation.

1           2 (Original). The method according to claim 1, wherein said  
2         magnesium is a solution of magnesium sulphate or magnesium chloride.

1           3 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of~~  
2         ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1, wherein said extra cellular concentrations of said  
3         magnesium solution range from about 12 mMol to about 65 mMol.

1           4 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~  
2         ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cultivation of the cells is further  
3         affected in the presence of foetal calf serum (FCS) or mammalian serum.

1           5 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~  
2         ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the cultivation of the cells is further  
3         affected in the presence of at least one growth factor and/or cytokine  
4         and/or hormone.

1           6 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~  
2         ~~preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein chondrocytes isolated from tissue of a  
3         mammal are cultivated.

1           7 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~  
2 ~~preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein chondrocytes differentiated from  
3 chondrocyte precursor cells and/or from mesenchymal stem cells and/or  
4 embryonic stem cells and/or adult stem cells are cultivated.

1           8 (Currently Amended). The method according to claim 6 or 7,  
2 wherein the chondrocytes are of mammal origin.

1           9 (Original). The method according to claim 8, wherein the  
2 chondrocytes are of human origin.

1           10 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~  
2 ~~preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein the cells, preferably chondrocytes, are  
3 seeded into tissue culture flasks and are cultivated in monolayer culture  
4 with medium supplemented with FCS and concentration of magnesium is  
5 initially in the range of 11 to 25 mMol.

1           11 (Currently Amended). The method according to ~~any one of the~~  
2 ~~preceding claims~~claim 1, wherein when increasing the Mg concentration  
3 the cells are embedded in alginate and cultured in medium supplemented  
4 with serum from said mammal, the concentration of magnesium is  
5 increased to a range of 21 to 65 mMol.

1           12 (Original). The method according to claim 11 wherein the  
2 cultivation is effected under an oxygen partial pressure of 8 %.

1           13 (Currently Amended). A method for the preparation of  
2 cartilaginous tissue comprising the method for the generation of chondrons  
3 comprising the step of cultivation of cells at unphysiologically high extra  
4 cellular concentrations of magnesium (Mg), characterized in that at least

5        once the unphysiologically high extra cellular Mg concentration is  
6        increased during cell cultivation according to any one of claims 1 to 12.

1            14 (Currently Amended). The method according to any one of the  
2        preceding claims claim 1, wherein cultivation is performed in vitro.

1            15 (Currently Amended). Use of the chondrons obtained according  
2        to any one of claims 1 to 12 and 14 method for the generation of  
3        chondrons comprising the step of cultivation of cells at unphysiologically  
4        high extra cellular concentrations of magnesium (Mg), characterized in  
5        that at least once the unphysiologically high extra cellular Mg  
6        concentration is increased during cell cultivation, for the preparation of  
7        cartilaginous tissue.

1            16 (Currently Amended). Cartilaginous tissue obtained according to a  
2        method of claim 13 or 14.